

★ The Man at Bethesda

★ The Enemies of Christ ★

4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 11

Have you ever been to the hospital? Many people there are sick. Many people who are in the hospital are elderly. Sometimes elderly people have a sickness that keeps them in the hospital for a very long time. Sometimes they have to stay in special homes so they can be taken care of all the time.

When Jesus was alive, people who were sick or had something wrong with them would gather in the streets of Jerusalem. Why? Because once in a while they would have a chance to be healed. The people in the streets would watch a pool. The legend said if an angel touched the water, the first person to enter the pool would be better! The people would sit and wait until they thought an angel had touched the water. Some people were probably disappointed. But, people kept coming. They wanted to be healed. This story is about a man who went to the pool for healing, but he found something much better.

The Pool at Bethesda

John 5:2-4 tells us about the pool called “Bethesda.” Bethesda means “House of Mercy.” The sheep market was around the pool. The sick people would stay in the porches outside the sheep market and watch the pool all day. People were waiting for a miracle! They would sit there every day all day for weeks and weeks and weeks. Instead of trying to live life as best as they could, they waited around the pool.

The Cure at Bethesda

There were many people waiting at the pool the day the crippled man was healed. All of them were waiting for the angel to trouble the waters. They wanted to be healed! Remember that the man who was healed had been sick for 38 years! That is a long time!

Jesus went to the man who was sick and asked him a question. He said, “Wilt thou be made whole?” The man did not answer Jesus’ question. He told Jesus that he could not be healed because he did not have anyone to help him into the pool.

Jesus told him to “Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.” As soon as the man obeyed Jesus, he could walk! He picked up his bed and walked away! He was very happy. Jesus showed the man at Bethesda that he did not need to have someone put him in the pool. He just needed to obey Jesus.

The Controversy at Bethesda

Jesus performed a great miracle when He healed the lame man. The lame man went about telling people what Jesus had done for him. But the priests and Pharisees were angry with the man who was healed because he carried his bed. Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath. The

Sabbath was supposed to be a holy day. No one was supposed to do anything on the Sabbath except worship God. The priests and the Pharisees thought the lame man was doing work by carrying his bed.

Sometimes we get so concerned about the things of this world that we forget about all of the things that God has done for us.

The Conspiracy at Bethesda

The Jews were very mad at Jesus. They decided they were going to get rid of Him. Jesus told the Jews that He was God's Son. They thought this was blasphemy. They did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus was a Jew, and the Jews were the people who were trying to slay Him.

Conclusion

When we sin, we have something in common with the crippled man. Jesus will heal us if we ask Him to! We need to thank God for everything He has done for us. He has saved us from a horrible place and given us eternal life! We should not only be happy that we are saved, but also be happy when other people get saved! Some people may not be happy when folks get saved. Those people do not love Jesus. We should not be like them. We should always be glad and thankful when God does something for another person.